

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4043

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 867

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF

SUBJ: SAG ONCE AGAIN RESORTS TO MAIL-FISTED APPROACH

REGARDLESS OF REACTION ABROAD

REF: DURBAN 347

1. SAG'S FORCEFUL DISPERSAL OF PRO-FRELIMO RALLY AT DURBAN
SEPTEMBER 25 AND IMMEDIATE ROUND-UP OF BLACKS SUSPECTED OF BEING
INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND INITIATING IT COULD WELL REFLECT GOVT'S
DEEP CONCERN ABOUT ANY CIRCUMSTANCE OR FACT WHICH COULD RESULT
IN HEIGHTENED BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS AND UNITY OF PURPOSE INIMICAL
TO WHITES' INTERESTS. IT WOULD SEEM THAT SAG'S PURPOSE WAS NOT
ONLY TO BREAK UP RALLY AND ARREST ITS SPONSORS BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE
OBJECT LESSON FOR OTHERS WHO MIGHT CONTEMPLATE TAKING STEPS TO
TRANSLATE MILITANT IDEAS INTO ACTION. THOSE AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF SAG
CANNOT BUT FEAR POSSIBILITY THAT BLACK MILITANCY AGAINST THEIR
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POLICIES COULD BECOME MUCH MORE WIDESPREAD THAN HAS BEEN THE

CASE SINCE SHARPEVILLE'S AFTERMATH. THEREFORE SAG LEADERS MUST FEEL THAT THEY HAVE TO ACT RUTHLESSLY TO DEMONSTRATE CLEARLY TO BLACK MILITANTS THAT IF THEY PUSH TOO FAR THEY WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES.

2. ARREST OF DAILY NEWS' EDITOR O'MALLEY MUST BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF LONG-TERM FEUD BETWEEN NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS. ONE RESULT OF NATIONALIST'S ANTIPATHY TOWARDS PRESS WAS ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION IN LAST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT (RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES AMENDMENT ACT) WHICH, INTER ALIA, GAVE GOVT POWER TO ARREST ANYONE WHO PROMOTES OR PUBLISHES INFORMATION REGARDING A MEETING OR GATHERING WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED BANNED. IN PUBLISHING ARTICLE ABOUT BANNED RALLY, O'MALLEY KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWNLY RAN RISK OF RETALIATION BY GOVT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT OF CHARACTER FOR NATIONALISTS NOT TO HAVE TAKEN OPPORTUNITY TO ACT IN A MANNER TO SHOW ENGLISH PRESS WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN A NEWSPAPER GETS TOO FAR OUT OF LINE. ACCORDING TO AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER EDITOR HERE, ARREST OF A NEWSPAPER EDITOR WAS UNPRECEDENTED. AND BEYOND THAT WAS WAY IN WHICH L'MALLEY WAS TAKEN FROM PARTY AND FACT THAT HE NOT ALLOWED TO DEFER APPEARING AT POLICE STATION UNTIL FOLLOWING MORNING.

3. ONCE AGAIN SOUTH AFRICA'S IMAGE ABROAD HAS TAKEN SECOND PLACE TO NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF IT MUST EXERCISE BIG STICK WHEN, IN ITS VIEW, IT IS COMPELLED TO DO SO. THUS, WHILE SOUTH AFRICA TRIES TO POLISH ITS IMAGE BY ADDING BLACK OBSERVERS TO ITS UN DELEGATION AND BY MOVING TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN STATUS QUO IN NAMIBIA, WHAT WILL CAPTURE ATTENTION OF OUTSIDE WORLD IS USE OF POLICE DOGS TO BREAK UP RALLIES BY BLACKS AT DURBAN AND PIETERSBURG AND ARREST OF NEWSPAPER EDITOR.
HURD

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